DESTINED FOR MORE

Power Principles to Live a Transformed Life

DR. TAMIKA FORD

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout my growth journey, principles have become more and more important to me. Growing and reaching higher heights requires adopting certain principles. Your life will begin to transform right before your eyes as soon as you apply these laws. When pursuing your goals and aspirations, you have to move according to principles instead of feelings. The truth is, if you're only motivated by feelings, you'll never achieve your dreams because there will be times when you don't feel like doing anything.

I have discovered that there can be no change without growth - and there can be no growth without incorporating critical principles into your daily routine. Principles are game changers. These methods have stood the test of time and are guaranteed to produce good results. I must be honest - this isn't as easy as it sounds. However, anything worth having comes with a price. A dream that costs you nothing - isn't worth anything. Destiny comes with a price tag, and it's not cheap.

In the end, it's definitely worth the sweat, blood, and tears.

If you genuinely want more in life, you must become more. That requires growth. Several years ago, I decided I was sick and tired of my life. As a result, I acted and did something about it. I began taking action steps that aligned with my desires and purpose in life. I knew God had more for me; I just had to decide to pursue it. I developed myself by forming new habits, adopting essential principles, and changing my mindset. Through God's help, I was able to transform my life, and so can you. God's grace empowers you to overcome!

By following the correct principles, you will see significant changes in your thinking patterns and behaviors. As your mind evolves - so does your life. Growth begins with the mind. You can never live beyond your thoughts. Therefore, you must elevate your mind if you want to become an improved version of yourself.

Challenge yourself to grow - and be willing to step outside of your comfort zone. Growth and discomfort are directly connected. It is impossible to experience growth without some level of pain.

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Decide to become a better you. Eventually, you will see change if you are patient and persistent. Once again, it's not easy, but then again, who said it would be? Your life is worth it.

Throughout this book, I share principles and insights to help you become an even better rendition of yourself. You deserve more, but you must make the commitment to work to become more. It all begins with a decision. There is power in a decision. Your life choices will determine the direction in which your life goes. So, my challenge to you is to embrace the wisdom and life-changing principles outlined in this book. The time has come to transform your life and discover a new you. Let's evolve, YOU WERE DESTINED FOR MORE!

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RENEW YOUR MIND

Everything you desire to accomplish in life must first be conceived in your mind. It all starts with the mind. As your mindset transforms, so will your life, since your life is a reflection of your mindset. Your way of thinking will always determine your next level. The truth is, before you reach the next level, you have to 'think' the next level. It is impossible to reach new heights with an old mindset. You must continuously renew your mind with new information. If you try to operate at levels beyond your knowledge and capacity, you will eventually revert to where you are mentally. You cannot excel beyond your current mindset. Why? Because you will always function at the level of your thinking. To live a transformed life, first transform your mind!

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..." (Rom. 12:2).

How can you apply this principle to your life?							
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ALWAYS EXAMINE THEIR FRUIT

Despite what people say, their actions always reveal the truth. This is why the scripture states, "You will know them by their fruits." If you pay more attention to actions and behavior patterns, you will eventually recognize the type of tree you are dealing with. Fruits don't lie! An apple tree will only produce apples, and a deceitful tree will always produce dishonesty and deception. It's impossible to produce what you are Regardless of what someone says or attempts to convince you of, who you really are will manifest over time. Remember, everything hidden will be revealed, and everything secret will be made known. If you want to know the type of tree (person) you're dealing with – look at the fruit. You will know a tree by its fruit!

"A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit..."

(Luke 6:43-44).

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

NEVER DECEIVE YOURSELF

There is no worse type of deception than selfdeception. Unless you're careful, your own heart and mind can deceive you and lead you to believe a lie simply because it's comfortable, safe, and what you desire. That's why scripture says, "the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked"(Jer. 17:9). Make sure the knowledge you possess and the beliefs you hold reflect the truth. deceived because Sometimes. we are strongholds in our lives. A stronghold is any area of your life where a false belief is upheld or defended as the truth. The negative patterns and cycles in your life that contradict Godly principles are your strongholds. It's evident that they don't bear good fruit. Therefore, continue to renew your mind so your heart doesn't deceive you.

"Whoever trusts in his own heart(mind) is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered" (Proverbs 28:26)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							
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YOU MUST HAVE A VISION

Know where you're going! It's important to have a sense of purpose and direction. If you don't know where you're headed in life, you'll end up somewhere you weren't meant to be - doing things God never intended you to do. You need a vision! A vision brings order and discipline to your life. Having a vision dictates where you go, what events you attend, the books you read, and who you connect with. A person with a vision will not waste their time or energy on people, places, or things that aren't aligned with their goals. Keep your surroundings conducive to where you're going; otherwise, they will become a distraction. And remember, it doesn't matter if others don't believe or agree with your vision. As long as you believe in it. God showed it to you – not them.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he." (Proverbs 29:18).

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

CONTROL YOUR TONGUE

Your tongue has power. Your words can strengthen or weaken - tear down or build up; so, use them carefully. Whenever you face conflict or frustration, be intentional about how you respond. Your life gravitates in the direction of your language. So, make sure your conversations enlighten, empower, and edify you and others. Remember, you are accountable for your words. Words are seeds that you plant, and you reap what you sow. That's why it's imperative not to sow or speak anything you don't want to manifest or harvest in your life. Words are also revealers; they your thoughts, mindset, and condition. What you say reflects what's in your heart because the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. Examine your heart and be intentional about the words you release. Guard your tongue!

"The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences." (Prov.18:21).

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

BE SURROUNDED BY THE RIGHT PEOPLE

People you spend most of your time with will significantly impact your life, for better or worse. Therefore, you should connect with people, places, and things that contribute to who you are becoming. You cannot afford to waste time and energy on things that aren't moving in the same direction as you. Surround yourself with the right company - people who desire more from life. If you want to grow, you need to be around people who are learning and growing as well - otherwise, you will become distracted. Remember, bad company corrupts good character. Connect with people who align with your values and goals. Although we may not have the same destination or purpose, we should be moving in the same direction. How far you go in life is determined by your circle of influence.

"Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good character." (1 Cor. 15:33)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

GET OUT OF YOUR OWN WAY

Don't impede your own growth and progress. Sometimes, your most significant victory isn't overcoming circumstances - it's overcoming yourself. Get out of your own way. You are the only person who can interrupt God's purpose for you no one else. Don't become your own worst enemy. Pray and ask God to help you overcome your limitations. Only when you come to the end of yourself will you experience more victories in God. If you do not learn to deny yourself, your spiritual life will lack progress. So, examine your thoughts and actions to ensure they align with God's purpose for you. Ask yourself, "Is my lifestyle in line with my expectations?" If not, make adjustments. Remember, the greatest enemy to your life success is not someone else- it's you! You are in a battle with yourself!

"Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD! (Lament. 3:40)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

PURSUE KNOWLEDGE

 ${f B}$ elieve it or not - what you don't know can hurt you. Whatever knowledge you neglect to pursue keeps you stuck. And knowledge alone is not enough - what you do with the knowledge empowers you. New information is the only way to enter a new season. Elevation requires updated information, but you must pursue it. Without proper knowledge, improving in life is impossible; you remain trapped - repeating negative patterns and cycles. The truth is, you must know something different to do something different. You can only accomplish something if you know what you're doing. You need knowledge! Remember, it is only proper knowledge that you experience freedom and progress in desired areas. What you don't know will hinder you.

"Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way." (Proverbs 19:2)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND -TRUST GOD

We often become frustrated and dissatisfied with our circumstances due to а understanding. Most of us feel uncomfortable or discontented when WP don't understand something. Because of this, we try to assign meaning to our seasons and circumstances rather than trusting God. You must trust God's purpose for your life and surrender to it. He knows what he's doing. Just because the situation doesn't feel or look like purpose doesn't mean it's not. Refrain from trying to define the season based on your own limited understanding. Trust that God knows what He's doing even when you cannot understand a situation at the time. Understanding usually comes later after you've gotten through the season. Keep in mind that God sees things differently than you do. Start seeing things from a divine perspective.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

How can y	How can you apply this principle to your life?							

DETACH WHEN NEEDED

Detachment is necessary. Often, we become emotionally attached to behavior patterns and mindsets that don't align with who God created us to be. Take the time to reevaluate your life and yourself from people, places, detach information that doesn't promote growth. Never remain faithful to something that doesn't add value to who you are - that's blind loyalty. It is dishonoring to God, yourself, and your progress to remain loyal to people, places, and perspectives inconsistent with your identity and purpose. You identify the environments need to perspectives that don't work for you - and make adjustments. Detach yourself from the negative connect with influences and people information that reinforce who you are becoming. Remain true to yourself!

"Therefore, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord." (2 Cor.6:17)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

SERVICE: BE WILLING TO SERVE OTHERS

Serving others is selfless and fulfilling. Yes, it will cost you, but it's worth it! It takes humility to help others and sacrifice for their sake. Whenever you give of yourself to assist someone, you align yourself with the character of Christ, who took on the role of a servant. Serving others will stretch you and reveal hidden talents and gifts you may not have recognized otherwise. I once heard a wise teacher say, "One of the most powerful decisions you can make is to do something for someone who doesn't have the power or resources to return the favor." You may not solve everyone's problem, but you can make a difference in someone's life. The world needs more servers. It's more rewarding to give than receive. Serving is an investment that reaps many rewards.

"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too." (Philipp. 2:4)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

NEVER STOP GROWING

You must evolve into the person you desire to be. Transformation doesn't happen accidentally it's intentional! During the process of growing, something within you changes. You are becoming a better version of yourself. A transformation is taking place within you. So be patient with yourself. Continue to feed your mind and soul spiritual food because whatever you feed grows. And remember, your life is shaped by your decisions. Therefore, you should make decisions that align with your growth and development. Don't be alarmed if you experience frustration, doubt, and uncertainty along the way. In fact, you should expect it! You will have to stretch yourself and endure some hard and uncomfortable seasons in order to grow. Whatever happens, stay the course. Elevation happens outside your comfort zone. Keep evolving.

"And though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great." (Job 8:7)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

LISTEN TO PRINCIPLES – NOT FEELINGS

Do not let your feelings and emotions control your life. Emotions can cloud your judgment and lead you to make unwise choices that you later regret. Always follow principles - not feelings. I'm not suggesting that your feelings are unimportant. We should pay attention to our feelings but not let them drive our decisions, especially life-altering ones. The truth is that feelings are fickle—they come and go. This is why it's crucial to avoid making permanent decisions based on temporary feelings. For example, when someone provokes you to anger, learn to respond with wisdom rather than emotion. Feelings are not facts, and emotions can lead you to make irrational decisions. Your choices determine what you will experience in the future. Therefore, you should avoid making decisions solely based on temporary emotions.

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future." (Proverbs 19:20)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

DON'T MAKE EXCUSES – MAKE ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustments bring about change, but excuses keep you the same. An excuse is a justification for staying where you are. If something is not working for you—don't be afraid to make changes. You can change your life trajectory by making minor adjustments. People often get stuck in their comfort zones doing the same things with the same people, getting the same results. That's insane! You must be willing to adjust. Until you decide to make different choices, nothing will change. Decide today whether you want to move forward or stay stagnant- it's a choice. When you make decisions, you plant seeds for your future. The seeds, whether good or bad, will ultimately yield a harvest. If you do not like the harvest, change the seed. Don't make excuses - make adjustments!

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to destruction." (Proverbs 14:12)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

BE LOYAL TO YOURSELF

Loyalty starts with you. Never betray yourself to become what someone else needs you to be because self-betrayal is the worst form of betrayal. Do not dishonor yourself; do not betray yourself. If you aren't loyal to yourself, you won't be loyal to anyone else. It all begins with you. Make sure you honor the commitments you made to yourself. compromise your identity to acceptance. Stay true to the person God created you to be. You don't have to conform to others' expectations. When you try to become something God did not intend for you to become, you dishonor yourself. No matter what, remain loyal to the person you are becoming. If you abandon yourself for others, you abandon your purpose, and all God has called you to do. Don't betray yourself!

"Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Cor. 16:14)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

BE MORE CONSISTENT

Remain persistent in your endeavors. Growth and elevation require consistency. You can only achieve your goals and dreams with self-discipline and consistency. Inspiration and motivation will get you started, but consistency will produce your desired results. To be consistent, you must commit to achieving both your short-term and long-term goals. Get rid of barriers and distractions. Develop consistent habits, and over time, your discipline will pay off. Keep in mind that consistency attracts opportunities. People tend to respect and trust those who are consistent in their words and deeds. Your dreams and visions can come true, but you must be persistent in your efforts. Your discipline shows your commitment to God's purpose and vision given to you. Remain consistent!

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Cor. 15:58)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

DISCOVER YOUR DIFFERENCE

You are different. Ask yourself, "What makes me unique?" It's your uniqueness that causes you to stand out - so own it! There is something you possess that cannot be found in someone else. What is it? When you discover your difference, embrace it - it's the key to revealing your life's purpose. God has endowed you with unique gifts, talents, and abilities tailored just for you. But it's your responsibility to uncover these treasures. Develop your gifts and talents, identify your uniqueness, and cultivate your skills. Your gifts are the tools you'll need to carry out your purpose successfully. Although others may have similar gifts, no one can do it like you can. That's what makes you distinct. And remember, your difference makes you uncommon and allows you to accomplish things no one else can. Discover your difference!

"For I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." (Psalm 139:14)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING

Your journey will be filled with trials and tribulations. But the good news is - you don't need to figure everything out on your own. Let God direct your steps, and don't rely on your own understanding. Consider the possibility that your tests and trials come to strengthen you—not destroy you. Use your adversity to strengthen your faith. Life challenges can help you grow and mature: however, vou must adjust perspective for this to happen. You have to change how you see your trials. Look for the opportunities that often hide behind the problems. Sometimes, opposition arises to push you beyond your comfort zone. If you allow it - adversity can reposition you for God's purpose. You may not understand everything now - but you will later. Walk through it!

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance." (James 1:2-3)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

ASSESS YOUR WEAKNESSES

We all have flaws and shortcomings. Identify your weak areas and be willing to address them. Otherwise, those deficiencies could linger and worsen, impeding your progress and advancement. If you tolerate your weaknesses, you will never be able to change them. We often endure certain things in our lives to avoid discomfort, but growth and change never occur in your comfort zone. If you ignore your deficiencies, they eventually alter your perception - and if your perception is off, your decision-making is off. Recognize and address the issues affecting your joy, peace, and growth. Surround yourself with people who feed your strengths - not your weaknesses. Make every effort to be extraordinary. If something hinders you from becoming the most excellent version of yourself don't tolerate it.

"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy."

(Proverbs 28:13)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

LET GO OF THE NEED FOR APPROVAL

Stop craving approval from others. It's astounding what some people will do or tolerate just to be accepted. If this is you- stop it! You don't need other people's approval to feel good about who you are. Never alter your identity for validation or acceptance - because once you start changing for people, you will have to keep changing. Some people will never accept the real you. Learn how to approve of yourself - even if others don't. Remember, God accepts you. And as you evolve, you will cross paths with the right people who accept you for who you are becoming. You cannot afford to waste valuable time looking for others' approval and validation. By trying to be who others expect you to be - you lose sight of who you can be. Don't sacrifice yourself for acceptance; it's not worth it. Embrace YOU!

"I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant." (Gal.1:10)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

FAITH REQUIRES MOVEMENT

Your faith requires movement. To fulfill God's purpose for your life, you must have faith and work. Start taking steps toward the vision God has placed in your heart. Without your participation and obedience, the dream will never come true. It takes a partnership with God and involvement in the vision to see results. There should always be corresponding actions when you say you have faith. Faith moves - faith works - and faith leads to obedience. Faith and obedience are inseparable they work together. Your actions prove your faith. By allowing God to guide your steps, you are acting in obedience. Obedience is agreement. You agree with God when your thoughts, desires, and actions align with his purpose. Remember, you learn more about God and his intentions for you when you follow his lead. Faith demands movement!

"Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works." (James 2:26)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						

PREPARE YOURSELF

Preparation is putting yourself in a position to take advantage of opportunities and blessings. You cannot wait until an opportunity comes before preparing. Now is the time to prepare. Make sure you are in a position to receive what God wants to do in your life. Otherwise, you may miss divine opportunities due to a lack of preparation. Develop your skills, master your craft, and seek the right knowledge. Take advantage of the moment; and prepare for the blessing. Often, people say they're waiting on God - but might God be waiting for you get into position? Your calling demands preparation. Transform yourself into the person you desire to be. Remember, to operate at the next level, you need a next level mindset. And that only happens with growth. Open doors and opportunities always find prepared people.

"Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house." (Proverbs 24:27)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY SEASON

Embrace every season! Don't take any season for granted. Every season plays an important role in your development, whether you realize it or not. Stay the course regardless of the challenges some seasons present. There is something you need to learn from every season that will help you in the next. You cannot advance to the next level without completing the current season. Manage each season well. Your perseverance will eventually pay off. Whatever difficulties you may be experiencing are only temporary - subject to change. Seasons do not last forever. You will go through intense seasons where God trains you in specific areas. However, you won't even realize you're in training. You might think its opposition – but it's God. Don't become weary. You are being equipped for the next phase of your purpose. Every season matters!

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Gal. 6:9)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

GUARD YOUR SOUL

Your soul must be protected. Don't let just anyone into your inner world - be deliberate. Everything that has access to you can influence the trajectory of your life. That's why it's vital to guard your soul. Most of the issues we experience are rooted in our souls - positive or negative. Throughout your life, seeds are planted in your soul by you and others. Eventually, those seeds grow and mature, forming your beliefs, desires, and outlook on life. Everything begins with a seed. The words you speak and the actions you take are seeds that you plant in your own soul. So, make sure you're cultivating the right seeds for your desired outcome. Remember, the company you keep impacts your heart - for better or worse. Be discerning about who accesses your Misguided influences cannot be allowed access. Your destiny depends on it!

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." (Proverbs 4:23)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						

BECOME MORE

As the quote says, "If you want more, become more." Meaning, strive to become someone who can sustain what you are pursuing. If you truly desire to attain your dreams - upgrade your thinking and behaviors. Grow into the person you dream of becoming. You cannot get new results from old thinking patterns. A better you requires a mindset shift. You can only evolve up to the level of your thinking. As you become more, you can handle responsibilities and opportunities. Remember, destiny is not about a destination – it's about becoming. Who are you evolving into? What are you doing to become an even better version of yourself? Become the person who is capable of maintaining next-level blessings. When you expand your thinking - you expand your life. Start cultivating the right mindset to experience God's promises in your life. If you want more - become more!

"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he..." (Prov. 23:7).

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

PERSPECTIVE IS KEY

During challenging seasons, a positive perspective is essential. If you perceive the season wrong, your response will be wrong. Having the right perspective matters. The way you view situations will always influence your decisions. If you misperceive things, you will make incorrect choices. Your perception of a situation determines your experience of it. That's why it's crucial to Without vour season. discern a understanding of your season, you will resist and oppose the very season you prayed for. Even if the circumstances seem different from what you expected - it may be exactly what you need to grow. Most of the time, we think we're fighting the opposition when, in reality, we're fighting our purpose. Adapt your perspective to the season and surrender to it. Perspective is key!

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

SELF-IMAGE IS VITAL

Your self-perception plays an essential role in your growth. The more you see yourself as an overcomer, the more likely you are to succeed. You are made in the image of God, so start seeing yourself that way. How you perceive yourself determines how you conduct yourself and how far you go in life. Many people allow their past mistakes, failures, and environments to define them. But just because bad things happened to you, doesn't mean they define you. God defines you. It's important to view yourself as God sees you through divine lenses. Whether you realize it or not, how you allow others to treat you directly reflects how you view yourself. Identify the broken areas in your life, and ask God to help you mend places. Remember, unhealed becomes deficiencies in your life, and those deficiencies will often dictate vour character. attitude, and outlook.

"God created man in his own image..." (Genesis 1:27)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							
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DON'T HOLD GRUDGES

Learn how to let things go. When you harbor grudges and resentment, you eventually become bitter. And that bitterness drives you to seek It's not worth it. Unforgiveness, bitterness, and resentment poison your soul and stunt your growth. When you refuse to let go of an offense, you aren't hurting the other person you're damaging yourself. You must never repay evil with more evil; otherwise, you'll become what you hate in others. Maintain your standards. Don't try to get revenge or "even the score" by reducing yourself to another person's level. You'll do yourself more harm than good by doing so. Holding grudges are unproductive and a waste of time and energy. Remember, if it's not helping you, it's distracting you. Concentrate on your goals and dreams. You got work to do. Let it go!

"Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good."
(Romans 12:21)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS CAUSE DISAPPOINTMENT

Don't misplace your expectations! It's natural to have certain expectations of others, but don't expect them to give what they don't have in them. individuals simply cannot meet your expectations - they lack the capacity. People can only give you what they have. Misplaced expectations always lead to disappointment. Sometimes you must adjust your expectations according to the individual. Keep in mind that people have limitations. It's not another person's responsibility to live up to all your expectations. It is unreasonable to expect people to perform beyond their capabilities. No, I'm not saying you shouldn't have any expectations; just manage them. Otherwise, you will be repeatedly disappointed. Remember, only God can satisfy certain needs. So, never expect others to give you what only God can provide.

"My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. ("Psalm 62:5)

Thoughts/Goals/Plans How can you apply this principle to your life?

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HUMILITY ATTRACTS FAVOR

Always maintain a humble attitude. God favors the humble but opposes the proud. Humility does not imply weakness or lack of confidence; it is placing God and others above our own selfish desires. You see, humble people desire to magnify and exalt God, not themselves. A humble heart will allow you to maintain a teachable attitude. It does not take much strength to be arrogant or proud, but it does take strength of character to remain gracious no matter what. Humility is a beautiful virtue to possess; it's attractive. People are drawn to a humble spirit. No one wants to be associated with a "know-it-all." Remember, humility comes before honor. So, keep cultivating this quality in your life, especially if you wish to fulfill God's purpose on earth. When you remain humble, God will give you grace to reach greater heights!

"The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life." (Proverbs 22:4)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

HONOR YOUR DESTINY HELPERS

Recognize your destiny helpers. Honor the people God has placed in your life as helpers to your vision. Do not miss your blessing because you dislike the vessel your help came in. You never know who God will use to bless your life, business, or vision. Therefore, you must regard others according to their spirit - not their flesh. Stop focusing on their outer appearance and discern their spirit. Honestly, the things you like or dislike about someone have nothing to do with God's ability to use them for your benefit. Your next level may be tied to someone you dislike. But, when honor is your standard, it doesn't matter who the vessel is. God sent helpers to bless you, but if you don't acknowledge them or honor them, you will miss out on opportunities. Use discernment. Always honor!

"...Outdo one another in showing honor." (Rom. 12:10)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

AVOID SHORTCUTS

Be aware of shortcuts. There is a reason why God allows you to take the long route. We often feel God's timing is taking too long - but during waiting times, God strengthens our faith in Him and develops our patience. Do not try to bypass God's process. You will only set yourself back by taking shortcuts. Embrace the journey and surrender to the process. The process strengthens, trains, develops, and refines you. Trust that God knows what He's doing in your life. You cannot skip steps on your destiny journey - every step is necessary. Taking shortcuts leads to you missing critical stages of training and development. God desires you to be prepared and equipped for higher levels. So, stick with God's path. And stop trying to sidestep His process. Avoid shortcuts!

"Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you." (Psalm 37:5)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

KNOW YOUR ASSIGNMENT

What has God assigned you to do in this season? We are not called to everything and everyone - but we are called to something. Know your assignment! God calls you to certain people, places, and things, but it is your responsibility to pursue them. Don't just go where you're accepted; go where God has assigned you. You will be most effective when you are in the right place, doing the right thing. Sometimes, we try to fix things that don't want to be fixed. As a result, you become distracted by situations you're not assigned to. Remember, there are certain environments and locations that need your grace. You may not be able to solve everyone's problems, but God has graced you with the ability to solve specific problems. When you are where you're supposed to be - you'll be effective and fruitful. Stay aligned with God's purpose!

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit." (John 15:16)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

CHOOSE YOUR BATTLES

Don't fight unnecessary battles! Be selective about the situations and problems you engage in. Not every situation is worth your time or attention, so choose wisely. Some battles have no rewards; why engage in them? Invest your energy and time in things that will empower you, not drain you. Sometimes, you have to ask yourself, "How does this battle benefit my family and me?" Because some conflicts are just distractions. Don't take the bait. There are some things you have to ignore and let your silence speak for you. You can no longer afford to invest time and effort in battles that do not enhance your life. Save your energy – and concentrate on what matters most. Stay focused!

"Don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth..." (2 Tim. 2:25)

How can you apply this principle to your life?								

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

It is pointless to blame others for life's disappointments. In reality, blaming others does not change anything. Whenever you blame others for your problems and failures, you become powerless to change them. By blaming, you are basically saying, "I cannot move forward until they fix it." This gives others too much power over you. People may have hurt you, but this is your life, so it's up to you to fix it. It is your responsibility to heal, grow, and progress. Regain control of your life. God has empowered you to overcome, but you must take responsibility. It doesn't matter if the offender apologizes to you or not - you still need to move forward. Take authority over your future. Do not wait for someone else to fix your problems - fix them yourself - and learn from the experience. You are not powerless to change your life!

"So then each of us will give an account of himself to God."

(Romans 14:12)

How can you apply this principle to your life?								

KNOW WHO YOU ARE

Being aware of who you are is essential to your faith journey. How can you fulfill your divine purpose if you don't know who you are? Who you are determines your purpose. Without discovering your true identity, you'll accept other people's opinions and ideas about you. The truth is, people didn't create you, so they can't define you. And never allow titles, status, and possessions to give your life definition. God defines you; he created you. Therefore, he knows what he has put inside you. As you grow in God, he reveals more of who you are to yourself. There are many things to learn about you - and finding yourself by yourself is impossible because you didn't create yourself. You gifts and treasures you have discovered. There's more to you! Remember, you don't have to accept the labels others try to place on you. Know who you are!

"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb." (Psalm 139:13)

How can you apply this principle to your life?								
								

BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF

Learn to be patient with yourself. Whenever you feel stuck, just keep moving forward. Stay the course. There are times when you may feel like your life is at a standstill, but it's not. Just because you don't see growth & elevation right now doesn't mean it's not happening. Spiritual growth takes time, so be patient. Embrace the journey - and in time, your transformation will be evident. Don't lose sight of God's purpose for your life. As long as you keep moving, learning, and growing - your life will elevate. Keep yourself from stagnating, and vourself growth-promoting position in environments. Continue to seek God's divine guidance and wisdom. Remember, God has a purpose for your life, but if you don't pursue it or aim higher, you will never experience a greater version of yourself. Never stop striving, and always give yourself grace.

"The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives." (Psalm 37:23)

How can you apply this principle to your life?								

YOU MAGNIFY WHAT YOU FOCUS ON

Whatever you focus on grows! The longer you focus on something, the bigger it becomes in your mind. If you don't want it in your life, don't magnify it. You decide what's significant based on what you magnify. Focus your attention on the things you wish to manifest in your life. You can make situations relevant or trivial - it's your choice. When you repeatedly magnify negativity, it becomes your reality. That's why you should be mindful about what you give your attention to since whatever has your attention influences your mind. The things you dwell on constantly are the things you will attract. Concentrate on what matters most - what you're grateful for, your talents and gifts, and your purpose in life. If it's not beneficial to you, your family, or your future - don't give it your attention. Decide what's meaningful to you and focus on that - because whatever you focus on expands!

"Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you." (Proverbs 4:25)

How can you apply this principle to your life?								
		 						

THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK

Before you speak, consider your words. It's never wise to share everything you think. Just because you have the freedom to say something doesn't mean it's wise to say it. Don't be careless with your words - be intentional. Sometimes, it's necessary to allow your emotions to subside before responding - especially when offended. When someone offends you, you are most tempted to speak negatively. However, you must rise above it. Use your words wisely. A word can be used as a weapon to harm others or as a tool to heal them. It's your choice. It's wise to listen more than you speak. Some things don't deserve responses. Not responding can be the best reply at times. Remember, timing is everything. Your words have a better impact when spoken at the right time. Use wisdom and discern the moment.

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." (Col. 4:6)

How can you apply this principle to your life?								

YOU NEED A ROUTINE

Regular routines help you to be disciplined and productive. They give you a sense of control over your life. You must have a routine in place for your goals and dreams to become a reality. It becomes difficult to fulfill your life's purpose when you neglect to establish certain disciplines to keep you on track. Unless you align daily routine and habits with vour vour expectations, you will not see progress. Routines can be transformative. Your future is hidden in your daily habits. Start making investments in areas where you desire growth. Sow where you want to go; plant seeds where you intend to harvest them. You will never reap where there is no investment. Develop a routine for your prayer life as well; it keeps you connected to God, which is the most meaningful routine of all.

"A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich." (Proverbs 10:4)

How can you apply this principle to your life?								
								
								

LEARN FROM YOUR PAST

Everyone has a past, so you should never feel ashamed about your past experiences. What matters is how you use them. The truth is - every mistake, failure, and disappointment has shaped you into the unique person you are today. Therefore, appreciate the lessons. Continue to grow through your experiences. Use the wisdom you've gained to make better decisions in the future. Also, your past can serve as a testimony to help and inspire others. The pain and heartache you've suffered can serve as wisdom for someone else. And remember, nothing is wasted when you are in a relationship with God. He works all things together for your good-and his glory. God will turn that pain, grief, and sorrow into something beautiful and purposeful - if you allow him. Don't waste your pain – learn from it!

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

How can you apply this principle to your life?								

BELIEVE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Believe in yourself! Sometimes, you must remind yourself that you are making a difference. You are influencing someone's life through your words, actions, and convictions. Just because people don't tell you - doesn't mean you haven't impacted their lives. Wherever you are, you are making an impact - knowingly or unknowingly. Someone is always watching you, learning from you, and admiring what you do. So keep sowing positive seeds. Your efforts are not in vain; your labor of love is not going unnoticed. God sees you. Continue to be faithful where you are - and don't become weary of doing the right thing. You will reap a favorable harvest in due time. Remember, if you're faithful now, you'll be elevated later. Prepare for an increase. God is expanding your sphere of influence! Just believe.

"..be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Cor. 15:58)

Thoughts/Goals/Plans How can you apply this principle to your life?

PASS THE TESTS

Your faith will be tested. Sometimes, trials come as a test, allowing you to apply what you learned previous experiences. Testing usually requires you to step outside your comfort zone. Don't resist the tests - pass them. Learn to persevere in the face of adversity and conflict in order to develop spiritual maturity. God sends us tests. The tests you pass determine your next level. No matter how you feel about tests, you need them. They develop patience and endurance. So the next time you are challenged, rejoice in the knowledge that you are strengthening and refining your faith through the tests. God has empowered you to overcome. He will not let you be tested or tempted beyond what you can handle. Pass the tests!

"God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation..." (James 1:12)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

IF IT DON'T FIT - DON'T FORCE IT

Refuse to conform. Your growth journey will require you to separate yourself from negative influences. There's a reason you don't fit in - so don't force it. Avoid adapting to environments where you don't belong. You have a vision. You have a purpose. It's important to avoid conforming to a space or atmosphere not conducive to your growth. You don't fit in with everyone, and that's okay. You have been chosen by God and set apart for His purposes. You can never change something as long as you are just like it. God wants to use you to change environments. That's why you should focus on the places where God has placed you. Avoid forcing relationships. Putting yourself in unsuitable environments can influence you to become something you weren't intended to be. If you don't fit in—you're not supposed to. Never conform to a place you don't belong.

"Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them..." (2 Cor. 6:17)

Thoughts/Goals/Plans How can you apply this principle to your life?

INCREASE YOUR AWARENESS

Growing requires awareness. When you are conscious and attentive, you tend to make better decisions. Not only should you be self-aware, but also God-aware. By being aware, you can better understand God and yourself. Knowing that God is always with you gives you a sense of peace and comfort. However, if you are unaware of God's presence, gratitude is difficult. You will mishandle the people and opportunities he gave you due to your lack of awareness. Do not let the distractions of life prevent you from being aware of God. Whatever circumstances you face in this season, remember that God is with you. Knowing that he is present allows you to surrender and follow his guidance. As you become aware of God, your heart opens up to the wisdom and revelation he wants to convey to you. Be aware of him at all times. God will never leave nor forsake vou.

"For in him we live and move and exist." (Acts 17:28)

How can you apply this principle to your life?								
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SET BOUNDARIES

Boundaries are necessary. Your life should have cutoff points or lines that other people are not allowed to cross. Having no boundaries makes you vulnerable to the wrong people having access to your life. You can protect yourself by setting boundaries. They protect you from dishonest and unsafe people. Allowing the wrong people into your life exposes you to the wrong influences. Avoid people who lack discipline - they will impede your progress and growth. Knowing when to say yes and when to say no is crucial. Never feel guilty about setting boundaries. And respect other people's boundaries as well. In essence, boundaries tell others, "This is who I am, this is what I believe, and this is what I will or will not tolerate in my life." Safeguard your life by keeping boundaries in place.

"A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls." (Proverbs 25:28)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						

WHAT YOU FAIL TO MANAGE – YOU WILL LOSE

Good stewardship attracts more into your life. It is your responsibility to take good care of everything you possess, including your mind, health, finances, gifts, and abilities. Every aspect of your life must be managed properly. Whatever you fail to manage, you will lose. Effective management is the key to growth. The next level is available to you if you manage this level well. Your life will grow in the areas you steward well, but eventually deteriorate in the areas you neglect. Good stewardship demonstrates gratitude gratitude attracts more. When you're faithful to what God has entrusted you, he will empower you with even greater responsibilities. God watches your faithfulness! Your current stewardship determines what you can manage. Those who manage well will always produce fruit and multiply.

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much."

(Luke 16:10)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						
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KEEP YOUR MOTIVES PURE

Always maintain the right motives. Knowing what motivates you to do what you do is very important. It is unhealthy motivation to do things for attention, recognition, or credit alone, which will lead you to compromise values for results. Examine your heart. Self-serving motives are of no eternal value. Seek a higher purpose and be willing to address your intentions. Ask yourself, "Why do I want to do this?" God is more interested in our motives than our actions. He evaluates the heart. Dishonest motives will eventually lead to failed relationships and dissatisfaction. Doing the right things for the wrong reasons is deceitful and misleading. Besides deceiving others, you also deceive yourself. When you do the right things for the right reasons, you'll find true fulfillment. Motives are a matter of the heart. Check your motivation!

"People may be pure in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their motives." (Proverbs 16:2)

Thoughts/Goals/Plans How can you apply this principle to your life?

BE WILLING TO MAKE SACRIFICES

You will have to make sacrifices on your growth journey. Therefore, ask yourself, "What are you willing to sacrifice to achieve your dreams?" Sacrifice means giving up something of value now for something more valuable later. You cannot accomplish your goals without making certain sacrifices. If your vision doesn't cost you anything it's not worth anything. Almost everything worth having is going to cost you something. You may have to sacrifice your comfort and pleasure at times to achieve your dreams, but it's worth it. It's impossible to grow in a comfort zone. On many occasions, your desires will cause you some discomfort. Don't be afraid to sacrifice some of your time doing things you don't necessarily want to do in order to do what you want to do later. Sacrifices are worth it if they move you closer to vour dreams. There must be sacrifices!

"But don't begin until you count the cost." (Luke 14:28)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						

BE FEARLESS

 ${f T}$ ake risks, be bold, and be courageous! To achieve your goals and aspirations, you must overcome your fears. Courage is not the absence of fear but the willingness to push forward despite it. Fear is a bully. Don't let it control you. And never be afraid of failure; it's a part of the journey. Failure is proof that you are striving. If you're not careful, fear can cripple you and prevent you from becoming your best self. All of us get scared sometimes; it's normal. However, don't stay in fear. Following a dream God has given you can be frightening at times. Don't let the hardships and discomfort intimidate or rob you of your destiny. Be persistent; and never fear what people might think of you. Accept who you are. Live your life regardless of what may or may not happen. You will miss valuable opportunities if you live your life in fear. Don't let fear hold you back. Be courageous!

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." (2 Tim. 1:7)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						

COMPETE WITH YOURSELF – NOT OTHERS

Compete with no one. Focus on your own growth and progress. Become a better person today than yesterday. Avoid comparison traps. When you compare yourself to others, you waste valuable time that could be spent creating and pursuing your dreams. Compete with yourself - not others. Otherwise, you'll try to become someone else rather than becoming yourself. Competing with others only leads to feelings of inadequacy and insecurity. Put your attention on your journey. We all have a purpose, so make sure to cultivate your unique skills, talents, and abilities. Your path has been crafted by God specifically for you. The truth is, you don't have time or energy to be competitive when you're busy working on yourself. Comparisons are counterproductive. Become your best self by competing with your own potential.

"..when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding." (2 Cor. 10:12)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

Every day, you plant seeds, whether you realize it or not. That's why you should be intentional about your relationships and how you treat others. Whether it's your words, your time, your actions, or your attitude - everything you do is a seed. Be deliberate in your sowings. And make sure your motives are right. Your entire life operates according to seeds, time, and harvest. The seeds you plant today will produce the harvest you experience later. If you desire a positive outcome plant the right seeds. You will eventually receive back what you put out into the world. Sow for what you want in life. You are where you are today because of the seeds you planted in previous years. Decisions are seeds. So, if you want a different harvest - make different choices; change the seeds. You will always reap what you sow!

"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap." (Galatians 6:7)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						

REMAIN TEACHABLE

Maintain a teachable heart. Be willing to learn new things and unlearn what is no longer relevant effective. Be honest with vourself acknowledge your limitations. Don't pretend to have all the answers. When you're open to change, you're able to learn from others. If we're willing to lay aside our pride, we can learn so much from one another. Humility is necessary for a teachable heart. Give up the "know it all" attitude, and admit when you lack knowledge. No one knows everything. Learning from others teaches you not only what to do - but also what not to do. It is equally important to know what not to do. Unless you continuously learn, grow, and change, you will remain stuck in antiquated thinking and practices. A person's experience can be a source of wisdom for you. Listen, learn, and apply. Be teachable!

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future." (Proverbs 19:20)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

EMBRACE CHANGE

Change is constant. To progress in life, you must be able to navigate times of transition. Transitions can be uncomfortable and scary. During this period, you are moving from the familiar to the unknown, which makes you more vulnerable to spiritual and emotional attacks. Uncertainty tends to make us fearful. But continue to move forward. Keep your eyes on God. Don't let adversity and opposition cause you to abandon your faith - and give up on your dream. Stand firm. Transitions are inevitable, but they are usually short and intense. God is moving you into new dimensions of opportunity and growth. However, this new level also brings with it more responsibilities, challenges, and accountability. Embrace the change. The difficult times will pass. God is preparing you for greater heights and dimensions. You are evolving!

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Eccl. 3:1)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						

SHOW LOVE TO OTHERS

Love is patient, love is kind, love honors, and love does not act rudely. Love and service to others are the most important things you can do for your fellow man. Don't serve out of obligation, recognition, or acceptance. Serve with love. Whether you believe it or not, your faith is powered by love. Faith and love are intricately linked, so your faith will never rise above your love walk. If you're not walking in love, nothing else matters. There is no more incredible and more powerful gift than love. Love heals, forgives, and keeps no record of offenses. Cultivate your love walk. Practice selflove. If you don't love yourself, you can't love others. Loving others is good for you. You experience joy, mood improvements, and a positive effect on your health when you practice love. Besides uplifting others, love also enriches you.

"..Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						

BE UNWAVERING IN YOUR FAITH

Faith is critical to achieving your goals and dreams. You have to believe that what you are pursuing is possible and that the world needs it. Always remain steadfast and unstoppable, but most of all, stay faithful to your path. Otherwise, you will not persevere. Despite adversity, delays, or opposition - you have to remain unwavering and committed to your life purpose. God did not promise you a problem-free life, but he did declare that you are an overcomer. You have been empowered to overcome. Focus on the right things. Don't let what you see deter you from walking by faith. What you see is temporary, but the growth, maturity, and character you build on the journey are eternal. When things get difficult, and life is trying to break you - remember you are not alone. God is with you. Stay vigilant and steadfast. Keep pursuing the vision. Your unwavering faith makes you unstoppable!

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor. 5:7)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

THOSE WHO SEEK GREATENESS – WILL FIND IT

If you seek, you will find. We often ascribe greatness to celebrities or well-known individuals with significant exposure and visibility. Greatness is not reserved for only a select group of people. It's available to you. However, you must have a desire to see your greatness. Everything God created is great, including you. You were made in his image. Since God lives within you, greatness resides within you. But you have to get a revelation of this truth. If you don't, you'll never live up to your full potential. Find out what you can do with your unique gifts, talents, and abilities to serve your generation. Become a seeker - and discover what treasures you possess. Remember, certain things can only be added to your life through your pursuit. Your potential for greatness lies within - but only those who seek it will find it.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						

DECISIONS DETERMINE YOUR FUTURE

Decisions have power. It is your choices and decisions that determine the direction of your life. Your daily choices shape and mold you into the person you are becoming. God has already determined your purpose in life, but it is up to you to decide whether you want to pursue it. It's a choice! Even if you do not make a decision, it is still a decision. In this case, life will decide for you. However, it usually isn't beneficial to you. Each of us has the freedom to make choices that will either reap growth or decay - blessings or curses. Choose wisely. Make decisions that empower you, not inhibit you, that strengthen you, not weaken you. Who you are today is just a reflection of your past choices. Remember, your decisions impact not only you but also those around you. Decisions are seeds. If you sow good decisions - you will reap good results. Decisions determine destiny!

"...I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore choose life..." (Deut.30:19)

How can you apply this principle to your life?						
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DO THE INNER WORK

Work on yourself! Determine what behaviors are holding you captive - preventing you from moving forward. Could it be self-doubt, insecurity, unforgiveness, or a traumatic past? It is time for you to break free from those strongholds and misguided thinking patterns that have bound you so long. Decide to become better by acknowledging your issues and doing the inner work. Wholeness requires mental transformation. And it does not happen automatically; you have to be intentional about it. Make a conscious decision to be mentally, spiritually, and physically healthy. When you are occupied with toxic thoughts and behaviors, you become a prisoner of your own mind, and all your decisions are filtered through those unhealthy thoughts. Consequently, your unresolved issues affect your perceptions of life. Regain control of your existence. Decide to walk in freedom by renewing your mind. Only through inner work can you achieve healing and wholeness.

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
(Philipp. 4:13)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

EMPOWERING OTHERS EMPOWERS YOU

Investing in others is an investment in yourself. As you positively impact someone else's life, you are also enriching your own. Empowerment is about listening, supporting, and sharing your knowledge with others - helping them reach their full potential. As a result, they can perform at their best. By empowering others, you increase their self-confidence and security. It motivates them to work harder and achieve their goals. Surround yourself with people who encourage you to reach higher. You should avoid adverse environments that constantly criticize you - but never lift you. Rather than becoming someone else's problem, aim to be a solution. People's lives are changed when they are empowered. Remember, when you positively invest in others, you're not only influencing them - you're also influencing everyone around them. That makes a real difference!

"Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." (Eph.4:29)

How can you apply this principle to your life?							

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr. Tamika Ford is a native of Shreveport, LA. She is a devoted Christian who strives to live out her life's purpose. Dr. Ford is the founder and president of Next Level International, a non-profit organization established in 2016. In addition, she founded Purpose Academy and Next Level Divine Coaching Services.

Dr. Ford is dedicated to the work and call of God. She has overcome a number of obstacles, bondages, and addictions in her life through the grace and power of God. One of her greatest convictions is that everyone has a duty to discover their true identity and fulfill their God-given purpose.

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